



Dedication: Franz Joseph Schwinn, 1929–1996

The organisers decided to dedicate this symposium and the proceedings to Franz Joseph Schwinn in recognition of his important contributions in the areas of disease control and resistance management.

While at Ciba-Geigy, Franz Schwinn was instrumental in several innovations including the discovery and development of the phenylamide fungicides which proved to be the first highly effective systemics against Oomycete fungi, and the development of several triazoles which set new standards in cereal disease control. With his talent and knowledge of both fundamental research and management, he was ideally equipped to lead this effort, which catapulted Ciba-Geigy from nowhere to number one among the fungicide companies. This success story resulted largely from his ability not only to inspire his co-workers in research and development but also to motivate his colleagues in marketing to agree on the large investments necessary for the development of market products. In addition, he was able to build partnerships with researchers in other companies who entrusted him with their fungicide candidates for development by Ciba-Geigy. This united effort offered the farmer entirely new possibilities in disease control.

To the scientific world he was known for his contributions on the soil-borne *Phytophthoras* and for his authoritative reviews dealing with various aspects of crop protection. In crop protection, he was widely

respected for his efforts in helping to establish FRAC (the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee). He helped organise, and lectured in, various FRAC workshops in many parts of the world. These workshops served to disseminate the information available on practical and theoretical aspects of resistance research and management. He was one of the first to recognise the importance of resistance management, not as an obstacle but as a prerequisite for a successful modern fungicide. Here, he was able to bridge, in a responsible way, the apparent gap between the academic and the business worlds to achieve the benefit of sustainable disease control programmes.

He was also an enthusiastic teacher as Professor at the Universities of Fribourg and Basel and, after his retirement, at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. Through his teaching he influenced numerous students to take up plant pathology as a profession and several of his doctoral students now occupy important positions in academia, industry and the public sector.

We were fortunate to be his colleagues during an exciting era in fungicide research. But we also knew Franz Schwinn as a sensitive and compassionate person who was able to reconcile the requirements of business and science with human values. Especially for this, we will remember him well.

Theo Staub and Pierre Urech